

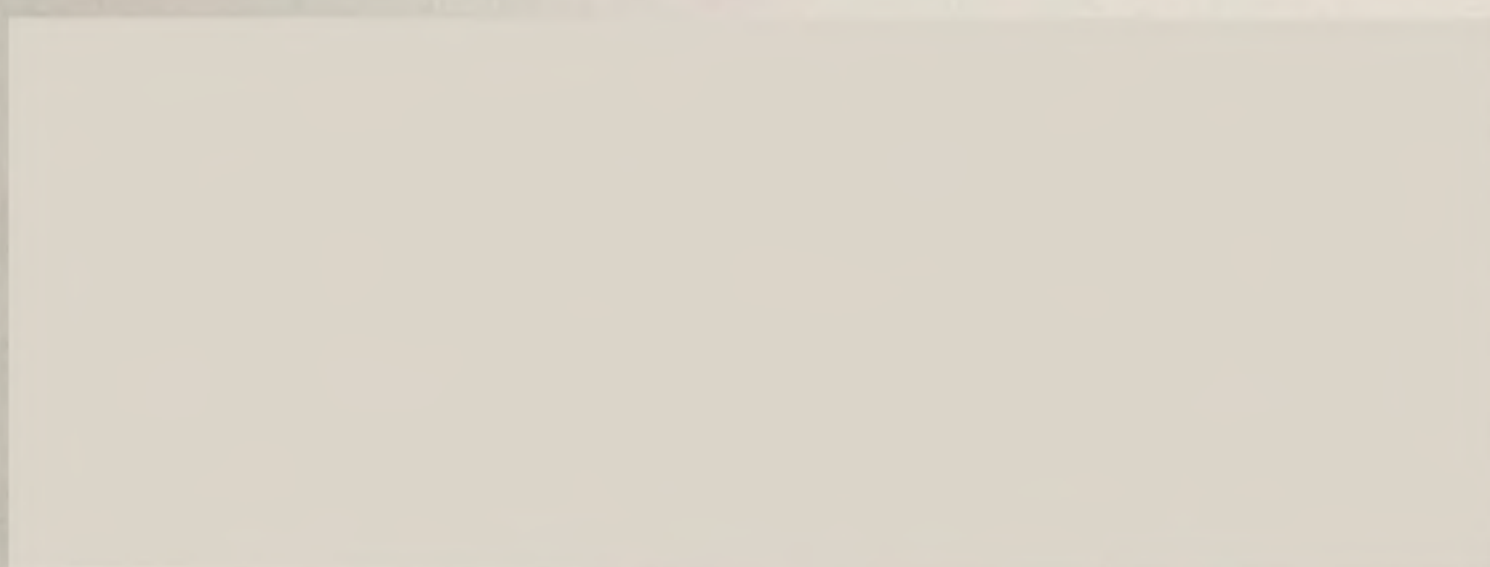
100 Stories

About

Hadhrat Uthmaan رضی اللہ عنہ

By:

Molana Kurram Yusuf



قال الله تعالى في القرآن المجيد

أَفَلَيْتَ أَهْلَ الْأَشْجَارِ
أَمْ لَهُمْ غُضُوبٌ عَلَيْهَا
رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا
عَلَيْهِمْ

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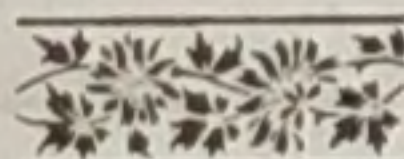
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

100 Stories about Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

Foreword

This is a translation whilst the original was in Arabic by Moulana Kuraam Yusuf Ably, translated into Urdu by Moulana Khalid Mahmood of Lahore, Pakistaan. Moulana Khalid Mahmood has subsequently penned: -

- 1.) 100 stories about Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ .
- 2.) 100 stories about Hadhrat Umar ؓ .
- 3.) 100 stories about Hadhrat Ali ؓ .
- 4.) 100 stories about Hadhrat Hassan and Hussein ؓ.

These also we will soon translate into English, Insha Allaah. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, is the third, righteous, rightly guided, noble, worthy and deserving Khalifa of Islaam as per the belief of the Ahlus Sunnat Wal Jamaat.

This book highlights with valid, reliable and authentic references, the lineage, family, birth, occupation, noble character, outstanding, personality, piety, righteousness, generously, hospitality, dressing, physical appearance, Islaam, Imaan, difficulties endured, shyness, fear of Allaah Ta'ala, kindness, justice, eradicating evil qualities, marriages, justice, honouring family of Nabi ﷺ, teaching methods, extension of Masjid Nabawi ﷺ, simplicity and standardising the Quraan e Kareem.

Many doubts which the ignorant one and the wilful objectors against the nobility of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ have been demolished and eradicated by this wonderful work.

May Allaah Jalla Majdahu grant us the ability to honour and defend the position, status and dignity of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ.

A. H. Elias (Mufti)
(May Allaah be with him)

Introduction

The status and virtues of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ are evidently clear. He was amongst the 'Saabiqoon Awwaloon' (the vanguards) of Islaam. After Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ, Hadhrat Ali ؓ and Hadhrat Zaid bin Haaritha ؓ, he was the next person to accept Islaam and was also graced with the title of *Dhun Noorain* (Possessor of two lights). This was on account of him marrying the two daughters of Rasulullaah ؐ (Hadhrat Ruqayya ؓ and Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom ؓ). After the demise of Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom ؓ, Rasulullaah ؐ stated that if he had forty more daughters, he would hand them all in marriage to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ.

He was a very wealthy man who spent all his wealth for the propagation of Islaam, as you will Inshaa Allaah read about. It was in his honour that the *Pledge of Ridhwaan* was taken by Rasulullaah ؐ and the Sahabah ؓ and he was also privileged to be one of the scribes of revelation. He was blessed with the honour of extending the Masjidul Haraam and is also endowed with the title of *Jaami'ul Qur'aan* (the one who compiled the Qur'aan) because he united the Ummah on a common recitation of the Qur'aan.

It is because of his outstanding attributes that the Ummah have given him the title of *Kaamilul Hayaa wal Imaan* (the one with perfect modesty and Imaan). The conquests he attained during his reign as Khalifah make up a fascinating segment of Islaamic history. It was during his reign that the Muslim took control of Armeria, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kabul, Sindh, Cyprus, Spain and numerous other regions. It was also during his reign that the first Muslim naval fleet was inaugurated.

While his pure life left an indelible impression on earth, he was one who was surrounded by strife and plots during his reign. There were rebellious elements bent on causing disunity and trouble amongst the Muslims. Not only did Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ undergo difficult situations to counter them to protect the Muslims, but he made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for the same. He refused to repel the insurgents who finally took his life not because he was unable to defend, but because this was in the greater interests of the Ummah at large.

This is however not the forum to discuss this. One may refer to detailed books on the issue, which discuss the arguments and counter-arguments. In our humble opinion, the book written by Moulana Sa'eed Ahmad Akbarabadi titled "Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorain ؓ" is one of the best in terms of its research and content.

Before quoting the stories concerning Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, it is deemed appropriate to introduce Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and to shed light on certain aspects of his life.

Name, Lineage and Family

His name was Uthmaan and he was also known as Abu Abdullaah and Abu Amr. His father's name was Affaan and his mother's name was Arwa. He hailed from the Banu Umayyah clan of the Quraysh tribe, who were second only to the Banu Haashim in rank. In the Battle of Fajjaar¹, the chief commander was Harb bin Ummayyah, who belonged to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s clan. Both the lineages of his father and

¹ Fought between the Quraysh and the Qais tribes with the Banu Haashim under the command of Zubayr bin Abdul Muttalib with Rasulullaah ﷺ in the same garrison.

mother join that of Rasulullaah ﷺ at Abd Manaaf, in the fifth generation. Furthermore, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s grandmother (Ummu Hakeem) was Rasulullaah ﷺ' s paternal aunt.

Birth

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was born in Makkah 47 years before the Hijrah, in the year 577 A.D. Not much is known about his childhood and early life except that he was amongst the very few people of Makkah who were **literate**.

Occupation

He was well-acquainted with the common occupation of the Quraysh, which was trade and commerce. He was in partnership with Rabee'ah bin Haarith in the cloth trade, which they engaged in on a big scale. It was as a result of this roaring business that he earned himself the title of *Ghani* (wealthy).

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was naturally a very generous and tolerant man with most noble character traits. The Quraysh therefore loved him dearly, as a result of which they even coined a phrase, which meant: "I love you and Allaah as much as the Quraysh love Uthmaan."

Sound Disposition

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was always a righteous man with perfect Imaan. Even though he lived during a time when drinking wine was fashionable and non-drinkers were ridiculed, **he was amongst those who detested wine-drinking**. He also had a natural dislike for singing and dancing and acts of futility. He once stated, "**Neither as a Muslim or during the Period of**

Ignorance have I ever committed adultery, drunken wine or indulged in music."

Acceptance of Islaam

It was due to his pure disposition and love for the truth that he was amongst the very first people to accept Islaam in Makkah when the call was made. According to Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه himself, he was the **fourth man to accept Islaam.**

Physical Description

He was fair in complexion, with tints of yellow, as the colour would be of gold mixed with silver. He was handsome, of remarkable stature and with straight hair. He had a prominent nose and a strongly built torso, which was covered in hair. He had a broad chest and muscular shoulders as well. There were faint pockmarks on his face and his teeth were straight with gold fillings. **His beard was thick**, his hair long and his skin smooth and delicate.

Dressing

Since he was blessed with plenty of wealth, Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه was able to wear the best of clothing as a token of expressing gratitude for the bounties of Allaah. He often wore Yemeni garments, which were highly valued during the time for their distinction and price. They were usually cream in colour and sold for a hundred Dirhams. He, however, always ensured that the garments conformed to the Sunnah. Hadhrat Salama bin Akwa رضي الله عنه reports that he saw Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه wearing his lower garment halfway up his shin, saying, **"This is how my beloved Rasulullaah صلى الله عليه وسلم used to wear is lower garment."**

Diet

Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه ate good food (by comparison to that which poorer Sahabah رضي الله عنهم ate) and used sifted flour.

Speech

Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه was a man of few words, but, when necessary, he was able to express himself clearly and eloquently.

Efforts in Support of the Deen

He was one who would not flinch at anything to ensure the safety of the Deen. He said, "Continue enjoining good and forbidding evil before a time comes when the evil ones amongst you will take control over your affairs and the du'aas that the good ones make against them will not be accepted."

Worship and Piety

Since acts of Ibaadah are the best ways to attain proximity to Allaah, Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه exerted himself in Nawaafil acts despite his busy schedule. This was in addition to fulfilling the Faraa'idh, Waajibaat and Sunan. **He was so devoted to his salaah that he became oblivious of everything around him.** He feared Allaah so much that he once said, "Had I been placed between Jannah and Jahannam without knowing where I shall be heading, I would prefer to be turned to dust before being commanded where I should go."

Personality

The company and nurturing he received from Rasulullaah ﷺ moulded Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ into a personality akin to Rasulullaah ﷺ himself. Rasulullaah ﷺ therefore said, "Of all my companions, Uthmaan's personality resembles mine the most."

Humility

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was extremely humble and never bothered with personal ego and status. Hadhrat Maalik ؓ' grandfather narrates that both Hadhrat Umar ؓ and Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ always seated someone behind them on their animals when arriving in Madinah so as not to resemble the kings of the world, who would never do such a thing. Hadhrat Maymoon bin Mahraan ؓ reports that even during the period of his Khilaafah, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ would ride a mule with his slave Naa'il seated behind him.

Independence

Although he was always surrounded by servants and slaves, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ served himself. When asked why he did not have one of his slaves arrange water for his wudhu at nights, he replied, "The nights are theirs for rest."

The mother of Hadhrat Zubayr bin Abdullaah ؓ was a servant of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. She states that unless one of the servants did not wake up by themselves at the time of Tahajjud, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ would not ask them to wake up to arrange water for his wudhu.

Bodyguard

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ did not bother to have a bodyguard oversee him. Hadhrat Hasan ؓ reports that he saw Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ sleeping in the Masjid, covered in a sheet while there was no one else about.

Piety and Respect for the Words of Rasulullaah ﷺ

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had a natural dislike for all forms of evil and immorality and would regard every statement of Rasulullaah ﷺ to be a binding command.

Freeing Slaves

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ would set a slave free every Friday and if he did not do so at any time he would set two slaves free the following Friday.

Compiling the Qur'aan

Amongst the greatest of his achievements was the compilation of the *Mas'haf Uthmaani*. It is through this compilation that the Qur'aan has been preserved in exactly the same manner it was revealed. The details of this will be mentioned shortly, Insha Allaah.

Letters

The letters that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ wrote have been quoted in both the books of history as well as the books of language. They are paragons of concise, yet comprehensive speech and are extremely eloquent and persuasive.

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Statements of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

1. While worry for this world is a form of darkness, worry for the Aakhirah is a form of light
2. One who forsakes this world is for Allaah, one who forsakes sin is for the angels and one who forsakes desires will become the beloved of the Muslims
3. Four things are useless:
 - ✽ Knowledge without practice
 - ✽ Wealth that is hoarded
 - ✽ Abstinence through which the world is earned
 - ✽ A long life with which the Aakhirah is not earned
4. I love three things in this world:
 - ✽ Feeding the hungry
 - ✽ Clothing the naked
 - ✽ Reciting the Qur'aan and teaching others to do the same
5. While there is good in four things, they hide within them something that is most necessary:
 - ✽ While it is good to meet with the pious, it is most necessary to follow them
 - ✽ While it is good to recite the Qur'aan, it is most necessary to act upon it
 - ✽ While it is good to visit the ill, it is most necessary to fulfil their bequests
 - ✽ While it is good to visit the graves, it is most necessary to prepare for it
6. I enjoy worshipping Allaah in four ways:
 - ✽ Carrying out the Faraa'idh

- ✽ Avoiding what is Haraam
 - ✽ Carrying out good deeds with the hope of being rewarded
 - ✽ Avoiding evil because of fear for Allaah
7. There are five signs of a pious person:
 - ✽ One's spirituality is enhanced by being with him.
 - ✽ He controls his private parts and his tongue.
 - ✽ He regards happiness in this world to be a calamity
 - ✽ He avoids what is doubtful for fear of it being forbidden.
 - ✽ He sees destruction in falling into any of these.

As the Khalifah

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ managed the affairs of the Muslims during his term of Khilaafah as they were governed during the time of Rasulullaah ﷺ. The panel he consulted with comprised of almost all the same men whom Rasulullaah ﷺ and the Khulafaa after him consulted with. Allaama Ibn Katheer ؒ states that when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was the Khalifah, the borders of the Islaamic state stretched extremely wide from east to west. The Mujahideen were instrumental in spreading the Deen to **Spain, Qayrwaan and as far as China in the east. In the west, he conquered Madaa'in, Iraq, Khurasan and Ahwaaz.** The Muslims fought a tremendous battle against the Turks, which resulted in a defeat for their king Khaqaan. Rasulullaah ﷺ was shown these victories when he said, "The earth was shrunk before me so that I could see it from east to west. Soon, my Ummah shall be granted control over as much as I have been shown."

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The Firsts Attained by Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

The following are amongst the things that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was the first to accomplish:

1. Apportioning salaries for Mu'adhins from the state treasury
2. Instructing that the Takbeer be said in a lowered voice.
3. Having the entire Ummah recite the Qur'aan in a uniform Qiraa'ah.
4. Having a second Adhaan called out for the Jumu'ah salaah
5. Having title deeds issued to show land ownership
6. Designating grazing fields for camels and horses in the state treasury.
7. Building courthouses and appointing judges.
8. Constructing buildings for the state treasury and for inns to host travellers.
9. Constructing the port at Jeddah.
10. Constructing bridges and roads as required.
11. Donating the first Waqf property to the Muslims when he purchased the well of Rooma.
12. Migrating with his family.
13. Establishing a shipyard to build sea-faring ships in Shaam
14. Appointing an accountant for the state.
15. Constructing a floodwall to prevent Madinah from flooding.

16. Digging wells at various places as required.
17. Establishing the Muslim naval fleet and securing the first naval conquests.

Recording Revelation

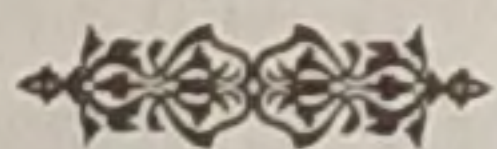
Because Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was literate, he attained the privilege of being one of the scribes of revelation. Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ reports that that she personally witnessed Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ writing down revelation as it descended upon Rasulullaah ﷺ at night. She adds that it can only be a person with a noble personality and with sterling qualities that would be blessed with such proximity to Rasulullaah ﷺ.

Wives and Children

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was first married to Rasulullaah ﷺ's daughter Hadhrat Ruqayya ؓ. They had a son named Abdullaah, who passed away with a fatal disease. It is because of this son that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was called Abu Abdullaah. When Hadhrat Ruqayya ؓ passed away, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ married her sister Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom ؓ. She passed away in the year 3 A.H. on the same day that the Battle of Uhud came to an end. The wives he married afterwards are as follows:

1. Hadhrat Faakhta bint Ghazwaan, who belonged to the Mudhar tribe. The couple had a son named Abdullaah Junior, who passed away at a young age
2. Ummu Amr bint Jundub, who belonged to the Azd tribe. Their children were Amr, Abaan, Khaalid, Umar and a daughter Maryam.

3. Faatima bint Waleed, who belonged to the Banu Makhzoom tribe. She was known as Ummu Abdullaah and their children were Waleed, Sa'eed and a daughter Ummu Waleed.
4. Asma bint Abu Jahal bin Hishaam. They had only a son called Mughiera.
5. Maleeka bint Uyayna bin Hisn Fazaari. They had only a son, who passed away in childhood.
6. Ramla bint Shayba bin Rabee'ah. They had three daughters, named Ummu Abaan, Ummu Amr and Aa'isha.
7. Naa'ila bint Qaraafisah Kalbi. Their children were Maryam Junior, Khaalid, Arwa, Ummu Abaan Junior and Utba. She was his only wife when he was martyred.



Story 01

News of Nabuwaat while on a Journey

Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ reports, "We once left with a caravan to Shaam before Rasulullaah ﷺ announced his Nabuwaat. We had just entered the borders of Shaam when a fortune-teller who lived there approached us and said, 'My companion (a Jinn) came to me and stood at my door.' When I asked him why he would not enter, he replied, 'I cannot. Ahmed (Rasulullaah ﷺ) has made his appearance and such a matter has come that is beyond our capacity.'"

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ continues. He says, "I then left and when I returned to Makkah, I found that Rasulullaah ﷺ had already announced his Nabuwaat and was calling people towards Allaah ﷻ."¹

Story 02

Blessed with Islaam while on a Visit

Hadhrat Amr bin Uthmaan reports that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, "I was once visiting my aunt Arwa bint Abdil Muttalib (my mother's sister) when Rasulullaah ﷺ arrived there. I began staring at him because in those days there was some mention of his Nabuwaat. Turning to me, he asked, 'What seems to be the matter, O Uthmaan?' I replied, 'I am surprised that there is so much talk about you when you are such an honourable person among us.' Rasulullaah ﷺ said, 'Laa Ilaaha Illallaah'. Allaah is witness to the fact that I shuddered at this. Rasulullaah ﷺ then began reciting:

¹ Waaqidi, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.2 Pg.338). Abu Nu'aym has reported a similar narration in his *Dalaa'il* (Pg.29). The narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

وَفِي السَّمَاءِ رِزْقُكُمْ وَمَا تُوعَدُونَ فَوَرَبَّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِّثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ
تَنْطِقُونَ

In the sky (in the "Lowhul Mahfoodh") is (the record of) your sustenance (its time, type and quantity) and (records of) what you have been promised (of Qiyaamah). (The time for Qiyaamah has been fixed but has not been made known to man.) By the Rabb of the sky and the earth, this (coming of Qiyaamah) is certainly the truth just as (it is true that) you can speak.

(Surah Dhaariyaat, verses 22,23)

Thereafter, Rasulullaah ﷺ stood up and left. I left after him, met him and accepted Islaam."¹

Story 03

Difficulties Endured when Becoming a Muslim

Hadhrat Muhammad bin Ibraheem Taymi narrates that when Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ accepted Islaam, his uncle Hakam bin Abil Aas bin Umayyah securely bound him in ropes. He then said to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, "Have you turned away from the creed of your forefathers and turned to a new religion?" I swear by Allaah that I shall never release you until you forsake the religion you follow." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "I swear by Allaah that I shall never leave it." When Hakam saw how steadfast Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was in his religion, he released him.²

¹ Madaa'ini as quoted in Insti'aab (Vol.4 Pg.225). The narration appears in Hayaatus Sahabah ؓ.

² Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.37).

Story 04

Supporting the Right Cause

During the period when the third Khalifah was being selected (from a panel of six Sahabah ؓ), Hadhrat Abdur Rahman bin Auf ؓ addressed the others saying, "Which of you wishes for himself to step down and then have the choice of selecting the most worthy one as Khalifah?" When he received no reply from the others, Hadhrat Abdur Rahman bin Auf ؓ opted for the choice.

When he did this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was the first to support him saying, "I have heard Rasulullaah ﷺ say that the person who is trustworthy on earth is trustworthy in the heavens."¹

Story 05

Indifference towards Status

When the people pledged allegiance to the hand of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ the day he became the Khalifah, Hadhrat Talha ؓ enquired from the people whether all of the Quraysh endorsed the appointment to the Khilaafah. When informed that they did, he then went up to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then said to him, "I am prepared to step down from this post if you disapprove of my appointment." "Will you really do so," Hadhrat Talha ؓ asked. "I most certainly will," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied. "Has everyone pledged their allegiance to you," Hadhrat Talha ؓ asked next. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied that they did, Hadhrat Talha ؓ

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.240).

said, "Then I also wish to pledge allegiance to you, for I do not wish to oppose their unanimous decision."¹

Story 06

Seeking Advice from Others

Hadhrat Hamraan bin Abaan reports that after Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah, he sent for Hadhrat Abbaas ؓ. When the latter arrived, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said to him, "I require your advice very urgently today." Hadhrat Abbaas ؓ then advised him **that people would never oppose him if he did the following five things:**

1. Exercised patience in the face of death
2. Loved the people
3. Overlooked the faults of people
4. Treated them with kindness
5. Preserved secrets without disclosing them.²

Story 07

Generosity

Hadhrat Ibn Sa'eed bin Yarboo Makhzoomi reports says, "I once entered the Masjid where **I saw a very handsome man sleeping with a brick as a pillow.** I stood rooted to the spot in awe of his extreme beauty when he opened his eyes and asked who I was. When I explained to him who I was, he called for a boy sleeping nearby. The boy did not respond, so he asked me to call for him. The boy then came and the man whispered

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.245).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.408).

something to him in his ears. He then bade me to be seated as the boy left. The boy returned a short while later with a set of clothing and a thousand Dirhams. **The man then put the thousand Dirhams into the pocket of the clothes and gave them to me to wear.** Upon returning to my father, he asked me who the person was who had been so generous towards me. 'I have no idea,' I replied, 'All I know is that he was sleeping in the Masjid and that I have never seen anyone so handsome before.' **'That man,' my father explained, 'was Ameerul Mu'mineen Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ.'**¹

Story 08

Rasulullaah ﷺ is Shy before Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ reports that Rasulullaah ﷺ was once sitting with Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ behind him when Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ sought permission to enter and then entered (after permission was granted). Thereafter, Hadhrat Umar ؓ sought permission to enter and he also entered. Next came Hadhrat Sa'd bin Maalik ؓ who entered after seeking permission to do so. Rasulullaah ﷺ was busy talking to the others with his knees exposed when Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ sought permission to enter. Rasulullaah ﷺ then immediately covered his knees and told Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ to move away. After speaking for some time, the men left. Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ then asked, "O Nabi of Allaah ﷺ! When my father and his companions entered, you did not place your clothes over your knees neither did you ask me to move away from you (why did you do so when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ came in)?"

¹ Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ Khalifah Madhloom pg.62.

Rasulullaah ؐ replied, **"Why should I not be shy in front of that person in front of whom even the angels are shy? I swear by the Being Who controls my life that the angels are shy for Uthmaan bin Affaan just as you are shy before Allaah and His Rasul ؐ. Had he entered when you were close to me, he would neither speak nor raise his head until he left."**¹

Story 09

Fear for the Grave

Hadhrat Haani who was the freed slave of Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ says that whenever Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ stopped at a graveyard, **he would weep so much that his beard would get wet.** Someone once asked him, "You do not weep when you think of Jannah and Jahannam but weep when you think of the grave?" He replied, "I have heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'The grave is the first stage from amongst the many stages of the Aakhirah. If one is successful there, the later stages are easier. However, if one is unsuccessful there, the later stages will be extremely difficult.'" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ also added, "I have also heard Rasulullaah ؐ say that he had never seen a sight more frightening than that of the grave." In his narration, Hadhrat Haani adds that he heard Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ recite the following couplet by a grave (which means):

¹ Tabraani, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.203,204). Abu Ya'la has reported a similar narration, as quoted in *Majma'uz Zawaa'id* (Vol.9 Pg.82). Tabraani and Abu Ya'la have also reported a similar narration from Hadhrat Hafsah ؓ, as quoted by Haythami (Vol.9 Pg.82). The narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

*"If you are saved from this (the punishment in the grave), then you are saved from something enormous. If not, then I do not think that you will be saved (from future torment)"*¹

Story 10

Being Uncompromising when Extending the Masjidul Haraam

When he issued the command to have the Kabah and the Masjidul Haraam rebuilt and extended, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ offered to buy the adjacent land from some people. They, however, flatly refused to sell, upon which Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ **had their homes demolished and kept the monies for the propertied stored in the public treasury for safekeeping.** These people then came screaming and shouting to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. He therefore had them arrested, saying, "You people have the audacity to scream and shout at me when I issue an order. You would have never done this had Umar ؓ done this." They were then later released upon the intercession of Abdullaah bin Khaalid bin Usayd.²

Story 11

Kindness towards his Subjects

Hadhrat Ubaydullaah bin Umar ؓ reports that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once gathered the people of Madinah and addressed them thus, "O people of Madinah! On condition that you agree, we can transfer to you your properties. Those who

¹ Tirmidhi, as quoted in *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.5 Pg.322). Abu Nu'aym has also reported the narration in brief in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.61). The narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.258).

participated in the conquest of Iraq may have their wealth and properties (in Iraq) while staying at home (in Madinah).” “How will this ever be possible, O Ameerul Mu'mineen?” the people asked, “How will you be able to transport our properties?” Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, **“We shall trade your properties in Iraq for properties in Hijaaz.”** The people were overjoyed by this proposal, which had never before crossed their minds.¹

Story12

Losing the Ring

The ring that Rasulullaah ﷺ used to seal the letter he wrote was used later by Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ, Hadhrat Umar ؓ and then passed on to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was once sitting by the side of a well that he had dug for the people and turning the ring on his finger, when it fell into the well. Despite intensive searching and even draining all the water from the well, the ring was not found. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was extremely grieved by the loss and even announced that a generous reward would be given to the person who found it.

When all hope was lost of every retrieving the ring, **Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had an identical ring made out of silver, also inscribed with the words Muhammad Rasulullaah.** When he was martyred, the ring went missing and no one ever knew what had happened to it.²

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.285).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.287).

Story13

Sense of Responsibility

When Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ returned to Madinah from Shaam, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked him why the people of Shaam were complaining about him. Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ explained saying, “It is inappropriate in my opinion to refer to the people’s wealth as Allaah’s wealth and it is also inappropriate for the wealthy to amass their wealth. It is because of this that people oppose me.”

“O Abu Dharr,” Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, “It is my duty only to discharge my Fardh obligations and to collect from the people the obligations due from them. **I can therefore not force them to be ascetics, but can encourage them to make an effort in that direction.**”¹

Story14

Honouring others

When Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ requested permission from Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to leave Madinah, the Ameerul Mu'mineen refused to grant him leave. However, when Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ persisted, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was forced to grant him leave. When Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ was leaving, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ gave him a flock of camels and two slaves, saying, “Do visit Madinah from time to time and **do not become a total Bedouin.**” Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ then left for Rabdha, where he built a Masjid. He did, however, continue visiting Madinah.²

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.289).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.289).

Story 15

Emphasis on the Miqaat

In thanksgiving to Allaah for the many military victories Allaah has granted him, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Aamir ؓ donned the Ihraam from Nishapur and left for Umrah. When he met Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, the Ameerul Mu'mineen expressed remorse at his action, saying, "If only you had donned the Ihraam from the place where other Muslims don their Ihraam!"¹

Story 16

Eradicating Evil

Hadhrat Hakeem bin Abbaad reports that when wealth started to flow to the people of Madinah and they started to enjoy the good life, **the first evil that cropped up was pigeon racing and using various objects for target practice.** To prevent people from these evils, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ appointed a man from the Layth tribe to clip the wings of the pigeons and to close down all the target practice venues. This was during the eighth year of his Khilaafah.²

Story 17

His Instruction to Conceal a Hadith for the Greater Benefit of the Masses

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mowhab reports that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once said to Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ, "Go and pass

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.319).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.406).

judgement between the people." Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ requested, "Will you not excuse me, O Ameerul Mu'mineen?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ emphatically said, "Never! I have sworn that you must be the judge." "Do not be hasty," Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ spoke, "have you heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'The person who seeks protection from Allaah has sought a great source of protection.'" When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ confirmed that he had heard the Hadith, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ said, "I then seek Allaah's protection from being a judge."

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then asked, "What prevents you when your father was a judge?" Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ replied, "I have heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'The person who is a judge and passes judgement in ignorance shall be one of the inmates of Jahannam. As for the one who is a knowledgeable judge and passes correct and just judgement, he will plead (before Allaah on the Day of Qiyaamah) for an acquittal (that he should neither receive any rewards nor any sin).'¹ What have I to hope for after this?"¹ A narration of Ahmad adds that after this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ excused Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ and told him not to inform anyone else about it (otherwise none would be prepared to act as judge and society would suffer).²

¹ Tabraani in his *Kabeer* and *Awsat*, Bazaar and Ahmad narrating from reliable sources, as confirmed by Haythami (Vol.4 Pg.193).

² Tabraani in his *Kabeer* and *Awsat*, narrating from reliable sources in his *Kabeer*, as confirmed by Haythami (Vol.4 Pg.193). Abu Ya'la has reported a similar narration and Ibn Sa'd (Vol.4 Pg.108) as well, but in more detail.

Story 18

Seeking the Opinion of Others

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ used to consult with other Sahabah ؓ whenever he could not reach a decision on any matter. He would also encourage the people to do the same. He was once travelling for Hajj when someone offered him some meat from a bird that had been hunted. Unsure whether it was permissible for him to eat the meat, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked Hadhrat Ali ؓ, who was then travelling with him. When Hadhrat Ali ؓ made it clear that it was not, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ refrained from eating it.¹

Story 19

The Duty to Propagate the Deen

The primary duty of any successor of Rasulullaah ﷺ is to serve the Deen and ensure that it is propagated. This was always a priority with Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. He ensured that all prisoners of war were invited to accept Islaam by explaining to them the beauty of Islaam. He once personally invited a group of Roman slave women to Islaam and two of them accepted.²

Story 20

Justice

Hadhrat Umar ؓ was once at the Kabah when he noticed a pigeon sitting in a place where it could mess his shawl. He

¹ Mustadrak Ibn Hambal (Vol.1 Pg.100), as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.231).

² Adabul Mufrid, as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.230).

therefore chased it off and it went to sit in another place. However, there happened to be a snake there, which stung and killed the pigeon. When the case came before Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, he ruled that Kaffaara be paid because the pigeon had been chased off from a place of safety to one of danger, which cost it its life.¹

Story 21

Consulting with the Sahabah ؓ

When the need arose to extend Masjidun Nabawi ؓ, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ summoned the Sahabah ؓ to consult with them about the matter. Marwaan bin Hakam, who also happened to be present, remarked, "What is the need to consult about the matter? When Umar ؓ had the Masjid extended, there was no further mention of it." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was annoyed with this remark and said, "People stood so much in awe of Hadhrat Umar ؓ that they would even squeeze into an iguana's pit if he instructed them to do so. I am, however, of a softer disposition and therefore have to be cautious that the people do not rebel."²

Story 22

Immediately Acting upon Good Advice

When Hadhrat Talha bin Ubaydullaah ؓ purchased some land from Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and brought the money to him, Hadhrat Talha said, "I am making this deal with a person who has no idea what shall transpire with him in the future." When he heard this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ immediately sent his

¹ Mustadrak Ibn Hambal (Vol.1 Pg.100), as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.231).

² Wafaa'ul Wafaa (Vol.2 Pg.508), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ.

messenger to distribute the money amongst the poor that night until there was nothing left by the morning.¹

Story 23

Intercession

Hadhrat Rabee bin Haarith bin Abdul Muttalib ؓ was Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s business partner during the Period of Ignorance. After Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah, Hadhrat Rabee ؓ' s son Abbaas once asked Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to write to someone called Ibn Aamir, requesting him to give Abbaas a loan of a hundred thousand. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ complied with the request, upon which the loan was extended. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ also gave Abbaas one of his houses as a gift and until today the house is still referred to as the house of Abbaas bin Rabee.²

Story 24

Punishing People for Practising Magic

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once heard that a man called Ibn Dhil Habka Nahdi was practising magic. He therefore wrote to the governor of the area Waleed bin Uqba to question Ibn Dhil Habka about the allegation and to punish him if he admits to the crime. Consequently, Ibn Dhil Habka admitted using **magic tricks and sleight of hand** when he was questioned. He was then punished and the letter of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was read out to the people stating, **"This offence is indeed a serious one,** so you people should now also be serious and

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.412).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.412).

avoid such forms of entertainment." What was most surprising to the people was the fact that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ came to learn of this.¹

Story 25

The Honour of being Rasulullaah ﷺ's Representative

Recounting Rasulullaah ﷺ's stay at Hdaybiyyah, Hadhrat Urwa ؓ narrates that the Quraysh became very scared when Rasulullaah ﷺ camped at Hdaybiyyah. Rasulullaah ﷺ decided to send one of the Sahabah ؓ to the Quraysh so he called for Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab ؓ for this ask. Hadhrat Umar ؓ said, "O Rasulullaah ﷺ! (Although I a willing to fulfil your command) I am the most detested person in their sight and if they cause me any harm, there shall be none from (my tribe) the Bani Ka'b who will stand up for me. **Rather send Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ because he has family in Makkah and he will be able to convey exactly what you want.**"

Rasulullaah ﷺ therefore called for Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ and sent him to the Quraysh. Rasulullaah ﷺ briefed him saying, **"Tell them that we have not come to fight but have come only to perform Umrah. Invite them to Islaam as well."** Rasulullaah ﷺ also instructed him to meet the Muslim men and women in Makkah and to give them the glad tidings of victory and that Allaah shall soon make His Deen dominant in Makkah so¹ that none would have to keep their Imaan a secret. Rasulullaah ﷺ sent Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ with this message to give the Muslims courage.

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.410).

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ left for Makkah and passed a group of the Quraysh at a place called Baldah. When they asked him where he was headed, he informed them that Rasulullaah ؐ had sent him to invite them towards Allaah and towards Islaam and to tell them that the Muslims have not come to fight but only to perform Umrah. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then gave them the Da'wah to Islaam as Rasulullaah ؐ had instructed him. They said, "We hear what you say. You may proceed to fulfil your task." Abaan bin Sa'eed bin Al Aas then stood up, welcomed Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and guaranteed his safety. He saddled his horse and allowed Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to sit in front as they rode to Makkah.¹

Story 26

Love for Rasulullaah ؐ

When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ went to Makkah to represent Rasulullaah ؐ during the period when the rest of the Muslims were camped at Hudaibiyyah, he came before the Kabah. The Quraysh said to him, "Although we have prevented Muhammad ؐ and the other Muslims from Tawaaf of the Kabah, we will allow you the privilege to perform Umrah." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, however, declined the offer saying, **"How can I perform Umrah when my master ؐ cannot?"**

In the meantime, the Sahabah ؓ with Rasulullaah ؐ at Hudaibiyyah said, "O Rasulullaah ؐ! How fortunate Uthmaan ؓ is since he will be the first of us to perform

¹ Ibn Asaakir and Ibn Abi Shayba as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.288) Ibn Abi Shayba has also narrated it in detail from another source but also on the authority of Hadhrat Urwa ؓ. This is also quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.290). Bayhaqi (Vol.5 Pg.286) has also quoted it from Moosa bin Aqba. The narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Umrah?" Rasulullaah ؐ replied by saying, **"No, Uthmaan will never perform Umrah until I do."**¹ This incident clearly depicts the loyalty and love for Rasulullaah ؐ that was in Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' heart and the confidence that Rasulullaah ؐ had in him.

Story 27

The First to Migrate with his Family

Hadhrat Qataadah ؓ says, **"The first person to migrate with his family for the pleasure of Allaah was Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ.** I heard Hadhrat Nadhar bin Anas say that he heard Hadhrat Abu Hamza viz. Hadhrat Anas ؓ say, 'Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ left for Abyssinia with his wife Hadhrat Ruqayya ؓ who was the daughter of Rasulullaah ؐ. News about them was slow in reaching Rasulullaah ؐ until a woman from the Quraysh came to him and said, 'O Muhammad! I have seen your son-in-law with his wife.' 'How were they?' asked Rasulullaah ؐ. She said, 'I saw him mount his wife on a very weak donkey as he drove it along from the rear.' Rasulullaah ؐ commented, **'May Allaah go with them. Uthmaan is the first person to migrate (with his family) after Loot ؓ.'**"²

Another narration adds that when Rasulullaah ؐ received no news of them, he went out of his house to wait for some news. **Eventually a woman came to him and gave him news about them.**³

¹ Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, *Khalifah Madhloom* pg.68.

² Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Al Bidaaya wan Nihaaya* (Vol.3 Pg.66). Ibn Mubaarak has also reported a similar narration as quoted in *Isaaba* (Vol.4 Pg.305).

³ Tabraani. Haythami (Vol.8 Pg.81) has commented on the chain of narrators. The narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 28

Not Disclosing a Hadith for Good Reason

Hadhrat Abu Saalih who was the freed slave of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ narrates that he heard Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ saying from the pulpit, "O people! I had kept secret from you a Hadith that I had heard from Rasulullaah ﷺ fearing that you would disperse from around me (and proceed in Jihaad). I then decided to mention it to you so that each person may decide to do as he pleases. I have heard Rasulullaah ﷺ say, 'A single day spent guarding the borders (of the Muslim state) for the pleasure of Allaah is better than in thousand other days spend at other places'."¹

Story 29

Honouring the Family of Rasulullaah ﷺ

Hadhrat Qaasim bin Muhammad reports that amongst the rulings that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ initiated and which was approved of (by the Sahabah ؓ) **was having a man lashed for ridiculing Hadhrat Abbaas bin Abdul Muttalib ؓ in an argument.** When someone raised an objection, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, "When Rasulullaah ﷺ honoured his uncle, how can I allow people to ridicule him? Whoever allows such behaviour will be opposing Rasulullaah ﷺ." This ruling was then sanctioned (by the Sahabah ؓ).²

¹ Ahmad (Vol.1 Pg.65).

² Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.213).

Story 30

Concern for safety from Shaytaan

Hadhrat Muhammad bin Jubayr reports that Hadhrat Umar ؓ once passed by Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and greeted him. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ however did not reply to the greeting. Hadhrat Umar ؓ proceeded immediately to Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ and complained to him about this. When Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ asked Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ why he did not reply to the greeting, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ explained, "By Allaah! I did not even hear him because I was so deep in thought." "What was it that you were deliberating upon?" enquired Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "About opposing Shaytaan. He was plaguing my mind with thoughts that I do not even wish to express for all the wealth of the world. When he cast these thoughts in my heart, I said to myself, 'If only I had asked Rasulullaah ﷺ about how we could save ourselves from these thoughts from Shaytaan!'"

Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ then said, "I expressed the very concern and question to Rasulullaah ﷺ saying, 'How can we save ourselves from the thoughts that Shaytaan casts within us?' Rasulullaah ﷺ replied, 'The very same thing that I told my uncle (Abu Taalib) to say on his deathbed will save you if you say the same words. He however, did not say them.'"¹

¹ Abu Ya'la, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.1 Pg.74).

Story 31

Contemplation over the Ahadeeth of Rasulullaah ﷺ

Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas ؓ reports that he once passed by Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ in the Masjid and greeted him. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ looked straight at him but failed to reply. Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas ؓ then went to Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar ؓ and asked, "Has something new developed in Islaam?" "Why do you ask?" Hadhrat Umar ؓ enquired. "I was passing through the Masjid when I greeted Uthmaan ؓ, but he did not reply," Hadhrat Sa'd ؓ explained.

Hadhrat Umar ؓ summoned Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and asked him, "Why did you not greet your brother Sa'd here?" When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ denied doing anything of the sort, Hadhrat Sa'd ؓ insisted that he did. The exchange then got heated until both Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and Hadhrat Sa'd ؓ swore by Allaah that they were telling the truth. It was then that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ realised he was mistaken and promptly repented saying, "I seek forgiveness from Allaah! You did pass by me, but I was then engrossed in thinking about something that Rasulullaah ﷺ told me. A veil descends upon my heart whenever I think about it (making me oblivious of everything else). Let me tell you about it.

I was once with Rasulullaah ﷺ when he was about to tell us how to start making du'aa. Just then a Bedouin arrived and occupied Rasulullaah ﷺ's attention. Rasulullaah ﷺ then got up and left. I walked behind him and when I feared that he would enter his room before I caught up with him, I stepped hard on the ground to grab his attention. 'Is that you, Abu Is'haaq?' Rasulullaah ﷺ asked. When I confirmed that it was

I, Rasulullaah ﷺ asked what the matter was. 'You were talking about the manner of starting a du'aa,' I explained, 'and then this Bedouin arrived and started talking to you.'

Rasulullaah ﷺ replied, "Oh yes! It is the du'aa that the man of the fish (Hadhrat Yunus ؑ) made when in the belly of the fish, which is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

"There is no Ilaah but You (O Allaah). You are Pure. I have certainly been from among the wrongdoers (so please forgive me and remove me from this fish)."

Whenever a Muslim makes du'aa using these words, Allaah will certainly accept the du'aa."

Story 32

Accepting an Invitation

When he was the Ameerul Mu'mineen, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was invited when Hadhrat Mughiera bin Shu'ba ؓ got married. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ arrived, he said, "Although I am fasting, I wished to accept the invitation and to pray for blessings."

Story 33

Receiving the Title of Dhun Noorayn from Allaah

Rasulullaah ﷺ once met Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ when he was very depressed. "What is the matter, O Uthmaan?"

¹ Ahmad in his Zuhd, as Kanzul Ummaal (Vol.5 Pg.66).

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¹ Ahmad in his Zuhd, as Kanzul Ummaal (Vol.5 Pg.66).

Rasulullaah ؐ enquired. "O Rasulullaah ؐ!" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ explained, "I have suffered a tragedy that none other has suffered. By the demise of the daughter of Rasulullaah ؐ, the family tie by which I became related to Rasulullaah ؐ has been permanently severed."

"What are you saying, O Uthmaan?" Rasulullaah ؐ said to him, **Jibra'eel ؑ has just brought a message from Allaah instructing me to marry Ruqayya's sister Ummu Kulthoom to you for the same dowry and in the same manner.**" In this way, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was married to Rasulullaah ؐ' s daughter Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom ؓ. When she passed away a few years later, Rasulullaah ؐ said, "If I had another daughter, I would have also married her to Uthmaan."¹

Story 34

Thanking Allaah for not Witnessing Evil

Hadhrat Sulaymaan bin Moosa narrates that Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ was once called to deal with some people who were involved in some evil activity. However, when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ went to them, he found that they had already dispersed even though the effects of their evil were still visible. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ praised Allaah for not encountering them and (as a token of gratitude) he freed a slave.²

¹ Haakim, as quoted in Taareekh Ibn Khaldoon (Vol.1 Pg.462).

² Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.60).

Story 35

Teaching the Wudhu as Performed by Rasulullaah ؐ

Hadhrat Haarith who was the freed slave of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ narrates that they were once sitting with Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ when the Mu'adhin arrived (to call out the Adhaan). Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked for a utensil which the narrator estimates contained approximately a *Mudd* of water. After performing wudhu, he said, "I saw Rasulullaah ؐ performing wudhu just as I have performed it and then say, 'Whoever performs a wudhu like this and then stands up to perform the Zuhr salaah, all his sins between the Fajr salaah and Zuhr salaah are forgiven. When he then performs the Asr salaah, all his sins between the Zuhr salaah and Asr salaah are forgiven. Thereafter, when he performs the Maghrib salaah, all his sins between the Asr salaah and Maghrib salaah are forgiven. Similarly, when he performs the Isha salaah, all his sins between the Maghrib salaah and Isha salaah are also forgiven. He may then pass the night in sin, but if he wakes up, performs wudhu and then the Fajr salaah, all his sins between the Isha salaah and Fajr salaah are forgiven. These salaahs are the good that wipe out sins'.¹"

The people then asked, "O Uthmaan! If these are the good deeds, what then are the 'lasting good deeds'?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "That is to recite 'Laa Ilaaha Illallaah' (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ), 'Subhaanallaah' (سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ), 'Al

¹ As referred to in verse 114 of Surah Hood where Allaah says, "Verily good deeds wipe out evil acts."

² As referred to in verse 46 of Surah Kahaf.

Hamdu Lillaah' (أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ), **'Allaahu Akbar'** (أَللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ) and **'Laa Howla wa Laa Quwwata Illaa Billaah'** (لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ).

Story 36

Redemption in this World

Hadhrat Abul Furaat narrates that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once said to his slave, **"I once twisted your ears and I want you to take retribution.** When the slave took hold of his ears, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ told him to twist harder and said, "How delightful is retribution in this world without any in the Akhirah."²

Story 37

Discussing the Bounties of Allaah

Hadhrat Amr bin Umayyah Dhamri ؓ reports that he once joined Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ for dinner, when *Khazeera*³ was served. "What is this?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked. "It is extremely delicious," Hadhrat Amr ؓ replied, "I have not tasted *Khazeera* as wonderful as this." To this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ remarked, "May Allaah have mercy on Umar bin Khattaab ؓ. Did you ever eat *Khazeera* with him?" Hadhrat Amr ؓ replied, "I have, but it was *Khazeera* that was without any meat, milk or butter." "You have spoken the truth," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ confirmed, **"Umar ؓ was a man who lived a life of such abstinence that is indeed very difficult**

¹ Ahmad, Abu Ya'la and Bazaar, as quoted in *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.1 Pg.203). Haythami (Vol.1 Pg.297) has commented on the chain of narrators. The narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Sammaan in his *Muwaafaga*, as quoted in *Riyaadhun Nadhrah* (Vol.2 Pg.111) by Muhib Tabari.

³ This is an Arabian dish prepared with the liver, heart and kidneys of a goat cooked in butter and milk.

to emulate. He completely avoided delicious foods. I swear by Allaah that I take no money at all from public funds. All that I eat is from that which I earn. You know well that I had been the wealthiest of all the Quraysh and that my trade caravans were the largest. I have therefore been accustomed to eating good food. Now that my age has advanced, I need to eat foods that are more refined and I feel that no person has the right to criticise me for this."¹

Story 38

Supplying Equipment and transport to the Muslim Army

Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Khabbaab Sulami ؓ reports that Rasulullaah ؐ once delivered a sermon in which he encouraged the Sahabah ؓ to spend on the 'expedition of difficulty' (the expedition to Tabook). Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then said, **"I shall provide a hundred camels** together with their saddle blankets and saddles." Rasulullaah ؐ then stepped down a step of the pulpit and again encouraged the Sahabah ؓ. This time **again** Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ stood up and said, "I shall provide **another hundred camels** together with their saddle blankets and saddles." Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan ؓ says that he then saw Rasulullaah ؐ shaking his hand as a person does when expressing wonder. A narrator by the name of Abdus Samad demonstrated this action by taking out his hand and shaking it. Rasulullaah ؐ then said, **"After this, Uthmaan need not carry out any other (optional) deed."**²

¹ *Tareekh Tabari* (Vol.4 Pg.401), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Di' in Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.274).

² Ahmad.

Another narration states that Rasulullaah ؐ gave encouragement three times and that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ took it upon himself to provide **three hundred camels together** with their saddle blankets and saddles. Hadhrat Abdur Rahman ؓ says, "I was present there as Rasulullaah ؐ stood on the pulpit saying, 'No sin can harm Uthmaan after this' or he said, 'No sin can harm Uthmaan after this day.'"¹

Story 39

Purchasing Land for the Extension of Masjidun Nabawi

When the Masjidun Nabawi became too small to accommodate the people, it was necessary to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the Masjid, which someone used to store his date harvest. When Rasulullaah ؐ indicated the need for this purchase, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ paid **the owner of the land twenty to twenty-five thousand Dirhams**. When Rasulullaah ؐ heard about this, he said to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, **"You will have all the rewards of including it into our Masjid."**²

Story 40

Writing Off a Debt

Hadhrat Talha ؓ once **borrowed a sum of fifty thousand Dirhams** from Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. As Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was leaving the Masjid one day, Hadhrat Talha ؓ met him

¹ Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Al Bidaaya wan Nihaaya* (Vol.5 Pg.4). Abu Nu'aym has also reported the narration in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.59). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.3 Pg.177), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.280).

and said, "I have received some money, so you may have the sum I owe you." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied by saying, **"You may keep the money, O Abu Muhammad, and use it for your needs."**¹

Story 41

Serving the Household of Rasulullaah ؐ

On one occasion, Rasulullaah ؐ' s household did not have any food to eat for four consecutive days. Returning home one day, Rasulullaah ؐ asked Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ whether there was something to eat. When she replied in the negative, Rasulullaah ؐ performed wudhu and left for the Masjid. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then arrived. Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ says, "At first I did not want to reply to him, but then I thought that he is a wealthy man and it may be that Allaah intended to send something good through him." When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked about Rasulullaah ؐ, **Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ informed him that there had been no food in the household for four days.** "You should never have allowed this to happen without informing someone like myself, Abdur Rahman bin Auf ؓ or Thaabit bin Qais ؓ (who were all wealthy men)."

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then left and returned with several camels, flour, dates, goats and a hundred Dirhams. He then said, "All of this will take a while to prepare. I shall therefore go and fetch some roasted meat." He then returned with bread and roasted meat. **Thereafter, he made Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ swear that she would inform him whenever such conditions prevailed over them.**

¹ *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.207).

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¹ *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.207).

Rasulullaah ؐ returned after Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had already left and asked Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ whether she had received anything in the meantime. She replied, "Yes; flour and dates loaded on camels, a bag of Dirhams, some healthy goats, bread and plenty of roasted meat." "Who gave all of this?" Rasulullaah ؐ asked. "Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ," she replied, "And he made me swear that I shall inform him if every this happened again."

Without even sitting down, Rasulullaah ؐ proceeded back to the Masjid and made du'aa to Allaah saying, "O Allaah! I am pleased with Uthmaan, You also be pleased with him. O Allaah! I am pleased with Uthmaan, You also be pleased with him."¹

Story 42

A thousand Camels with their Loads in Charity

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ reports that when a drought struck the people during the Khilaafah of Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ, the Khalifah addressed the people one morning saying, "You people will receive relief before the evening arrives." That morning, news came that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had received a thousand camels loaded with grain and food.

The grain merchants went straight to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' house and knocked on the door. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ came out wearing a shawl that he draped around his shoulders. "What have you come for?" he asked them. "We have heard that you

¹ Tareekh Ibn Khaldoon (Vol.1 Pg.465).

have received a thousand camels loaded with grain and food, so we have come to purchase them from you to relieve the poor people of Madinah." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ called them indoors where a large heap of grain was stored. "This has arrived from Shaam. At what profit margin will you purchase it from me?" "Twelve to ten (20% profit)," they replied. "How much more will you offer?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked. "Fourteen to ten (40%)," they responded. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ again asked them, they replied that they were even prepared to pay him 50% more than he had paid. This was the highest they could offer.

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then said to them, "Will any of you pay me ten Dirhams for every Dirham I paid?" When they declared that this was impossible, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said to them, "I want all of you to be witness that I am donating all of this grain and food to the poor people of Madinah."¹

Story 43

A Fountain in Jannah

Hadhrat Basheer Aslami ؓ narrates that when the Muhaajireen arrived in Madinah, the water did not agree with them. **There was a well called Roomah** which was owned by a man from the Ghifaar tribe but he sold a water bag full of the water for a *Mudd*. Rasulullaah ؐ once said to him, "Sell me the well in exchange for a fountain in Jannah." However, he submitted, "O Rasulullaah ؐ! I have no source of income for my family and myself besides this well. I am therefore unable to sell it." When this news reached Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, he bought the well from the man for thirty five thousand

¹ Tareekh Ibn Khaldoon (Vol.1 Pg.468).

Dirhams. He then approached Rasulullaah ﷺ and said, "Rasulullaah ﷺ! If I buy the well, will you promise me the same fountain in Jannah that you had promised him?" "Certainly," replied Rasulullaah ﷺ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then said, "I have already purchased it and I am donating it as Sadaqah for the Muslim public."¹

Story 44

Rasulullaah ﷺ's Du'aa for Hadhrat Dhun Noorayn ؓ

Hadhrat Abu Mas'ood ؓ narrates, "We were with Rasulullaah ﷺ on an expedition when we started experiencing extreme hardship. I could see the strains of hardship on the faces of the Muslims and I could also notice the happiness on the faces of the Munaafiqeen (who were happy to see the Muslims suffer). When Rasulullaah ﷺ noticed this, he said, 'Allaah shall provide sustenance before the sun sets.' Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ knew that the words of Allaah and His Rasul ﷺ were always true, so he bought fourteen camels together with the loads of food they carried. He then sent nine to Rasulullaah ﷺ. When Rasulullaah ﷺ saw them, he asked, 'What are these?' 'They are a gift to you from Uthmaan,' was the reply. The happiness on the face of Rasulullaah ﷺ was then clearly noticeable, while the faces of the Munaafiqeen displayed only unhappiness. I then saw Rasulullaah ﷺ raise his hands so high to pray for Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ **that I could even see the whiteness of his armpits. He made such du'aa for Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ that I had never before or ever after heard him make for anyone else. He prayed for Allaah to**

¹ Tabraani and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.11). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

reward Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ abundantly and to treat him ever so graciously."¹

Story 45

Simplicity

When Hadhrat Hasan was asked about the people who slept in the Masjid in the afternoons, he replied, "During his period as Khalifah, I saw Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ sleep in the Masjid in the afternoon. When he then got up, the imprint of the straw mat was visible on his side. The people then used to say (out of astonishment at his simplicity and unpretentiousness), 'That is the Ameerul Mu'mineen! That is the Ameerul Mu'mineen!'"²

Story 46

The Importance of Asking the Right People

Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Sufyaan Qaari says, "When my brother passed away, he made a bequest that a hundred Dinaars should be donated in the path of Allaah. I therefore went to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ (to find out what to do), wearing a cloak, the collar and hem of which was decorated with silk. When I got there, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had a man sitting with him. When the man saw me, he came up to me and started pulling at my cloak so that he could tear it up. Seeing this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ told him to leave me alone and he did. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

¹ Tabraani. *Haythami* (Vol.9 Pg.85) has commented on the chain of narrators. Ibn Asaakir has also reported the narration, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.12). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.60). Ahmad has also reported the narration, as quoted in *Sifatus Sahabah* (Vol.1 Pg.116). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

then said, 'You people have been too quick (to start wearing silk).' I then proceeded to ask Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! My brother has passed away and made a bequest that a hundred Dinaars should be donated in the path of Allaah. What do you instruct me to do?'

'Have you asked anyone else before coming to me?' enquired Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. When I replied that I did not, he said, 'Had you been to seek a ruling from anyone else before coming to me and if he had passed a ruling other than what I shall pass, **I would have had you executed (for asking an ignorant person).** When Allaah commanded us to accept Islaam, we all did so and (by Allaah's grace) are all Muslims. Allaah then commanded us to make Hijrah so we made Hijrah and are all Muhaajireen and residents of Madinah. Allaah then commanded Jihaad and when you people waged Jihaad, you became Mujaahideen and residents of Shaam. Spend the money on yourself, on your family and on the needy ones around you (relatives and neighbours). If you take a Dirham and buy some meat for yourself and your family to eat (when necessary), you will have the reward of seven hundred Dirhams recorded to your name.' I then left him.

When I made enquiries about the man who was wrestling my cloak from me, I was informed that he was **Hadhrat Ali bin Abi Taalib ؓ**. I then visited him at his home and asked him what he saw me do wrong. He replied, '**I heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'It will not be long before my Ummah legalises for themselves fornication and silk.' This is the first time that I have seen silk being worn by any Muslim.**' I then left him and proceeded to sell the cloak."¹

¹ Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.8 Pg.57). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 47

Consultation about Extending the Masjid

Hadhrat Muttalib bin Abdullaah bin Ibn Hantab narrates that when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah in the year 24 A.H., the people requested him to extend the Masjid, complaining that it was too congested on Fridays, because of which they were forced to perform salaah on the adjoining ground. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then consulted with the senior Sahabah ؓ and they unanimously decided that the building be demolished and extended. After leading the Zuhr salaah, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ mounted the pulpit and after praising Allaah, he said, "O people! I have decided to demolish the Masjid of Rasulullaah ؐ and to extend it. I testify that I have heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'Whoever builds a Masjid for Allaah, Allaah shall build him a home in Jannah.' I have also a precedent and leader who has passed before me and paved the way for me. He was Umar bin Khattaab who also extended and rebuilt the Masjid. In addition to this, I have consulted with the senior Sahabah ؓ of Rasulullaah ؐ, who are unanimous that the Masjid be demolished, rebuilt and extended."

The people liked the idea and made du'aa for him. The following morning, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ summoned the builders and he participated in the construction even though he was a person who always fasted by day and performed salaah during the night. In fact, he was a person who seldom left the Masjid. His instructions were that filtered plaster be made in *Batn Nakhl*. Construction work commenced in the month of Rabee'ul Awwal in the year 29 A.H. and was completed when the New Year entered with the arrival of the

crescent of Muharram of the year 30 A.H. The construction therefore took ten months.¹

Story 48

Importance given to Straightening the Rows of salaah

Hadhrat Maalik says, "I was with Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ when the people stood up for salaah. I was busy requesting him to grant me an allowance and continued doing so as he straightened some pebbles with his shoe. Eventually some men whom he had appointed to straighten the rows reported to him that the rows had been straightened. He then told me to stand straight in one of the rows and called out the Takbeer."²

Story 49

All over by the Morning

Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Musayyib says, "Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab ؓ and Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ used to debate a question so vehemently that an onlooker would be convinced that they could never be reconciled. However, they always parted ways most amicably (as if nothing had transpired between them)."³

¹ Muslim, as quoted in *Wafaa'ul Wafaa* (Vol.1 Pg.355,356). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Abdur Razzaq and Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.255). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

³ Khateeb, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.241). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 50

Caution in Narrating Ahadeeth

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ used to say, "What prevents me from narrating Ahadeeth from Rasulullaah ﷺ is *not* the fact that I was not one of those Sahabah ؓ with the best memories. What prevents me is that I can testify that I heard Rasulullaah ﷺ say, 'Whoever attributes anything to me that I never stated should prepare for his abode in Jahannam.'" Another narration quotes Rasulullaah ﷺ's words as, "Whoever speaks lies about me should prepare for a house in Jahannam."¹

Story 51

Fervour for Reciting the Qur'aan

Hadhrat Hasan says, "Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ said, 'Had our hearts been pure, we would never get enough of the speech of Allaah ﷻ and I would not like a single day pass by without looking into the Qur'aan.' When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ passed away, the pages of his Qur'aan were in tatters because he was always looking into it so often."²

Story 52

Stones Glorify Allaah in his Palms

Hadhrat Suwayd bin Zaid reports, "When I once saw Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ sitting alone in the Masjid, I took advantage of

¹ Ahmad, Abu Ya'la and Bazzaar. Haythami (Vol.1 Pg.143) has commented on the chain of narrators. This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

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the opportunity and went to sit beside him. When I mentioned Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to him, he said, 'Never say anything about Uthmaan ؓ unless it is good because of something about him that I saw with Rasulullaah ؐ. I used to search for the moments when Rasulullaah ؐ was alone so that I could learn from him. When I went to Rasulullaah ؐ one day, I found that he had already left home, so I followed him. Rasulullaah ؐ sat down somewhere and I sat down with him. 'O Abu Dharr!' Rasulullaah ؐ asked, 'What brings you here?' 'Allaah and His Rasul ؐ,' I replied.

Abu Bakr ؓ then arrived and sat down on Rasulullaah ؐ 's right side. 'O Abu Bakr!' Rasulullaah ؐ asked, 'What brings you here?' 'Allaah and His Rasool ؐ,' he replied. Umar ؓ then arrived and sat down on Abu Bakr ؓ 's right side. 'What brings you here, O Umar?' Rasulullaah ؐ asked. 'Allaah and His Rasool ؐ,' he replied. Uthmaan ؓ then arrived and sat down on Umar ؓ 's right side. 'What brings you here, O Uthmaan?' Rasulullaah ؐ asked. 'Allaah and His Rasool ؐ,' he replied.

Rasulullaah ؐ then picked up seven or nine pebbles that engaged in Tasbeeh in his hand so audibly that we could hear them sounding like the humming of bees. Rasulullaah ؐ then put them down and they stopped humming. He then put them in Abu Bakr ؓ 's hand and again they engaged in Tasbeeh so audibly that we could hear them sounding like the humming of bees. Abu Bakr ؓ then put them down and they stopped humming. Thereafter, Rasulullaah ؐ put them in Uthmaan ؓ 's hand and again they engaged in Tasbeeh so audibly that we could hear them sounding like the humming of bees. When Uthmaan ؓ put them down, they stopped humming.¹

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Another narration adds that Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ said, 'Rasulullaah ؐ then put them in Umar ؓ 's hand and again they engaged in Tasbeeh so audibly that I could hear them sounding like the humming of bees. Umar ؓ then put them down and they stopped humming.' The end of this narration adds that Rasulullaah ؐ remarked, "This denotes the successors of Nubuwwah."¹ Another narration adds that Rasulullaah ؐ also gave the pebbles to Hadhrat Ali ؓ and (after engaging in Tasbeeh) they stopped only after he had put them down.²

Yet another narration adds that Hadhrat Abu Dharr ؓ said, 'Every person sitting in the gathering heard the Tasbeeh from each of them (from the four Khulafaa)...Thereafter, Rasulullaah ؐ gave the pebbles in our hands (those of us apart from the four) and they did not engage in Tasbeeh in any of our hands.'³

Story 53

The Peril of Causing Harm to Rasulullaah ؐ 's Son-in-Law

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ reports that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was delivering a sermon from the pulpit when Hadhrat Jahjaa Ghifaari ؓ stood up, grabbed Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ 's staff and struck his knee so hard that the staff broke and Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ 's knee was seriously injured. Within the same year, Allaah afflicted Hadhrat Jahjaa ؓ with a disease

¹ Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.6 Pg.132). Abu Nu'aym has reported a similar narration in his *Dalaa'il* (Pg.215).

² Tabraani in his *Awsat. Haythami* (Vol.5 Pg.179) has commented on the chain of narrators.

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that affected his arm and actually ate away the flesh. He passed away with this condition.

Another narration states that Hadhrat Jahjaa bin Sa'eed Ghifaari ؓ once confronted Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, snatched his stick from his hand and struck him so hard on his knee that the stick broke. The people were outraged, but Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ merely got off the pulpit and went home. Allaah then afflicted Hadhrat Jahjaa Ghifaari ؓ 's knee with a disease that killed him before the year had ended.¹

Story 54

The Importance Given to Following the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ﷺ

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was once at Muzdalifah during Hajj when the sky became very bright after the Fajr salaah. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood ؓ then remarked, "If the Ameerul Mu'mineen leaves now for Mina, he would be following perfectly in the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ﷺ." As soon as Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ heard this, he left so quickly that the narrator says, "I cannot tell whether the words of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood ؓ were faster or the departure of Umrah."²

¹ Abu Nu'aym in his *Dalaa'il* (Pg.221), Ibnus Sakan and Baawardi, as quoted in *Isaabah* (Vol.1 Pg.253). This narration is quoted in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Bukhaari, as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.285).

Story 55

Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ Lauds the Intelligence of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

When Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ was dictating to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ his letter to appoint Hadhrat Umar ؓ as the Khalifah after him, Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ fell unconscious just before the name of the future Khalifah was written. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then continued to write the name of Hadhrat Umar ؓ. When Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ regained consciousness, he asked Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to read the letter of appointment to him. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then read it to him along with the part containing the name of Hadhrat Umar ؓ. To this, Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ exclaimed, "Allaahu Akbar!" and then lauded the intelligence and quick wittedness of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ.¹

Story 56

Taking Public Opinion into Consideration

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once promised Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Sarah ؓ that he could keep a fifth of the booty if he ever managed to conquer an African territory. Consequently, when Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Sarah ؓ managed the victory, he kept the fifth of the booty. The Muslim public were unhappy about the deal and complained about it. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ came to know about their displeasure, he asked Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Sarah ؓ to return the booty, saying, "Although

¹ Ibn Sa'd, as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.184).

I had made the promise, but (I am obliged to take the booty back because) the Muslims will not accept it.”¹

Story 57

Tolerating Ridicule for the Sake of Maintaining Family Ties

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was a soft-natured person and always placed the interests of his family before his own. When the people once complained publicly about this behaviour, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ gathered the Sahabah ؓ together and asked them in the name of Allaah to state **whether Rasulullaah ؐ gave preferential treatment to the Quraysh and the Banu Haashim amongst them.** When no one replied, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, **“If I had the keys to Jannah in my hand, I would have filled the hands of the Banu Umayyah with them.”**²

Story 58

The Height of Justice

Because of a misunderstanding between Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood ؓ and Hadhrat Ubay ؓ, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ did not grant them their allocated share from the public treasury for a while (a right which the Khalifah can exercise). However, due to his concern for justice, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had the money **given to the heirs of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood ؓ when he passed away.** The amount was estimated at twenty five thousand.³

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Pg.815), as quoted in Khulafaa Raashideen (Pg.188).

² Ibn Sa'd, as quoted in Khulafaa Raashideen (Pg.203).

³ Ibn Sa'd, as quoted in Khulafaa Raashideen (Pg.207).

Story 59

An Astounding Judgement

When Hadhrat Umar ؓ was martyred by Abu Lu'lu, Hadhrat Umar ؓ's son Ubaydullaah had Abu Lu'lu's daughter and a new Iranian Muslim named Hurmuzaan killed because it was believed that they also participated in the murder plot. This was the first court hearing to take place when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah.

When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked the Sahabah ؓ for their opinions, Hadhrat Ali ؓ proposed that Hadhrat Umar ؓ's son be executed as Qisaas for the retaliatory murder of Hurmuzaan. Some of the Muhaajireen expressed surprise saying, “Umar ؓ was just killed and now his son too!” Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas ؓ said, “O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I am sure that you will not be taken to task if you pardon Ubaydullaah.” Citing such opinions, it was evident that most of the Sahabah ؓ opposed the execution.

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then passed judgement saying, **“Since Hurmuzaan has no heirs, I shall act as his guardian because I am the Ameerul Mu'mineen.** I shall therefore accept the blood money as recompense.” Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then paid the blood money from his own pocket.¹

¹ Ibn Atheer, as quoted in Khulafaa Raashideen (Pg.210).

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Story 60

Explaining the Reason for Performing Four Rakaahs in Mina

It was always the habit of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to follow the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ؑ to the tee. He therefore needed to explain his reasoning when, unlike Rasulullaah ؑ, he performed four Rakaahs Fardh salaah instead of two at Mina and the other Sahabah ؓ objected. "When I arrived in Makkah," he explained, "I had the intention of staying over (as a Muqeem) and I have heard Rasulullaah ؑ say that when intended to stay at a place as a Muqeem, a person needs to perform the salaah of a Muqeem."¹

Story 61

Following the Sunnah

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was once seen smiling as he made wudhu. When asked for the reason, he replied, "I once saw Rasulullaah ؑ smile as he made wudhu."²

Story 62

Displeasure when the Sunnah is Conflicted

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was once performing Tawaaf with another Sahabi ؓ during Hajj when the Sahabi ؓ kissed the Rukn Yamaani. Because Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ had not done

¹ Ahmad, as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.211).

² Tareekh Tabari, as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.240).

so, the Sahabi ؓ caught hold of his hand so that he may also do so. "What are you doing?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked, "Did you not perform Tawaaf with Rasulullaah ؑ?" when the Sahabi ؓ declared that he had, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked, "Did you see Rasulullaah ؑ do that?" "No," was the reply. "Then is it not appropriate to follow Rasulullaah ؑ?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked. "Of course," the Sahabi ؓ replied.¹

Story 63

Compensation

During his term as Khalifah, Hadhrat Umar ؓ had appointed Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Abil Aas Thaqafi ؓ as the governor of Bahrain and Ammaan. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ allowed him to continue as governor until relieving him of his duties in the year 29 A.H. Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Abil Aas ؓ then proceeded to live in Basrah. He, however, still owned a house beside the Masjidun Nabawi in Madinah, which Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was forced to demolish to include within the Masjid when it was extended.

To compensate Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Abil Aas ؓ for the loss of his post and his property, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ granted him a large plot of land in Basrah, which historians estimate to measure ten thousand *Khareeb*, with each *Khareeb* measuring approximately 150 square feet. Together with this gift, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ also wrote a letter to him saying, "I have granted you this property in lieu of your property in Madinah that Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar ؓ purchased from

¹ Ahmad (Vol.1 Pg.70), as quoted in *Khulafaa Raashideen* (Pg.240)

you for the extension of the Masjidun Nabawi. The value of this property that exceeds that of your property in Madinah is a gift from me to you in lieu of relieving you of your post.”¹

Story 64

Modesty even from Slave Women

Bunaana was the slave girl of one of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ’ s wives. She says that when she used to bring Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ’ s clothing for him after he had taken a bath, he would tell her, “Do not look at my body because it is not permissible for you to do so.”²

Story 65

Fine Points

Whenever something caught the attention of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and he noted something of particular interest, he would mention this to the people present. He was once on the Mimbar to inform the people about the Muslim conquest of Morocco, when he saw Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ also present there. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ had himself participated in the conquest and had been sent by Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Sa’d bin Abi Sara ؓ to convey the news to Madinah.

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ therefore called him up to describe the events to the Muslims.

¹ Mu’jamul Buldaan (Vol.5 Pg.266), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.276).

² Ibn Sa’d (Vol.3 Pg.41), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.277).

Since Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ’ s mother was Hadhrat Asmaa ؓ, who was the daughter of Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ looked very much like Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ. Seeing this striking resemblance, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ addressed the people saying, “Dear people! Marry women who resemble their fathers and brothers because I have not seen anyone resemble Abu Bakr Siddeeq ؓ more than Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ.”¹

Story 66

Buying Exquisite Clothing for his Wife

A narration of Ibn Sa’d tells us that the Sahabah ؓ (those who could afford it) used to clothe their wives in exquisite clothing. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was also one who did this. He once bought his wife Naa’ilah a silken shawl for 200 Dirhams and said, “I have bought this for Naa’ilah and will be happy to see her wear it.”²

Story 67

The Honour of Compiling the Qur’aan

Hadhrat Hudhayfah bin Yamaan ؓ participated in the Battle of Armenia and Azerbaijan along with the Muslim armies from Shaam and Iraq. When he noticed the intense conflict between the soldiers of the two armies concerning the recitation of the Qur’aan, he brought it to the attention of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. “O Ameerul Mu’mineen!” he said, “Please see to the Ummah before the time comes when their

¹ Al Bayaan wal Tab’een (Vol.3 Pg.40), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.274).

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conflict concerning the Qur'aan becomes as serious as it was between the Jews and Christians."

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ consulted with the Sahabah ؓ on the issue and it was after they had taken a unanimous decision to go ahead that **Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked for the copy of the Qur'aan compiled during the time of Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ**. The copy was then in the custody of Ummul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Hafsa ؓ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then appointed a committee of four men to prepare a copy of the Qur'aan that portrayed the accurate recitation of the Qur'aan. The committee comprised of:

1. Hadhrat Zaid bin Thaabit ؓ
2. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ
3. Hadhrat Sa'd bin Al Aas ؓ
4. Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Haarith bin Hishaam ؓ

Of these men, all belonged to the Quraysh and it was only Hadhrat Zaid ؓ who belonged to the Ansaar. Since the Qur'aan was revealed in the dialect of the Quraysh, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ directed the committee to follow the dialect of the Quraysh if ever there arose a difference between them.

The copy prepared by Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ was returned to Hadhrat Hafsa ؓ once the committee had completed their task. The copy they prepared was called the Uthmaani Mashaf. Several more copies were prepared, which were sent to the major cities of Islaam and it is still according to this copy that the Qur'aan is recited and written to this day.¹

¹ Bukhaari, as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg. 274).

Story 68

Heeding to the Sunnah

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once sat at the door of the Masjid, sent for the rump of a goat and ate it while sitting there. He then proceeded to perform salaah without performing wudhu. When the people looked to him in surprise after the salaah, he said, "**Rasulullaah ؐ ate the rump of a goat at that very spot and then proceeded to perform salaah without performing wudhu.**"¹

Story 69

Giving up a Right Despite being Deserving it

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once purchased a piece of land from someone who did not come to collect his money for a long while. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ met the man somewhere, he asked him why he had not come for his money. The man said that he was wrong to have made the sale and that people were condemning him for it. He therefore wished to revoke the sale. Although Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was not obliged to revoke the sale, he gave the man the option to have the property back. He then narrated the Hadith, "Allaah shall admit into Jannah the person who loves to make peace and who is soft-hearted, whether he is the buyer or the seller, the beggar or the donor."²

¹ Ahmad (Vol.1 Pg.62), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg. 285).

² Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah (Vol.7 Pg.216), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg. 287).

Story 70

Kindness even to those to come after him

Out of respect for Rasulullaah ﷺ, Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ would never sit on that step of the Mimbar where Rasulullaah ﷺ sat. Out of respect for both Rasulullaah ﷺ and Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ, Hadhrat Umar ؓ sat on the step below the one upon which Hadhrat Abu Bakr ؓ sat. When Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah, he realised that this procedure could not be sustained. **He therefore started to sit on the step upon which Rasulullaah ﷺ sat.** This act was really one of kindness to those to come after him, while adhering to the Sunnah.¹

Story 71

Reciting the Entire Qur'aan in a Single Rakaah

Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Uthmaan ؓ says, "I was once performing salaah behind the Maqaam Ibraheem and made the salaah so long that I thought none would ever be able to surpass me. Someone then came beside me **and motioned for me to move.** I, however, ignored him. When he motioned a second time, I noticed that he was Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, so I moved off my place out of respect. **He then started to perform salaah and completed the entire Qur'aan in a single Rakaah.**"²

¹ Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah (Vol.7 Pg.148), Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.294).

² Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.53), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.282).

Story 72

The Army to India

The Muslim army had reached the borders of India during the time of Hadhrat Umar ؓ. Therefore, when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ succeeded him as the Khalifah, he gave instructions to Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Aamir the governor of Iraq to send someone into India to find out about the country. The scout was then to report directly back to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ in Madinah.

Hakeem bin Jabal Abdi was sent on this mission and, as commanded, he reported back to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ upon his return. He said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I have thoroughly reconnoitred the towns of India and know them very well." "Then do tell us about them," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked. In reply, Hakeem recited a couplet which meant:

"Its water is scarce, its produce is limited and its thieves are bold

If our army is small, it will be destroyed and if it is large, it will starve"

After listening to this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked Hakeem, "Are you serious or are you merely discouraging us?" When Hakeem made it clear that he was merely stating the facts as they were, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ cancelled the expedition to India.¹

¹ Futuhul Buldaan, as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.124).

Story 73

Advice to the Naval Expedition

Hadhrat Mu'aawiya ؓ once wrote to Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ requesting permission to conquer the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean Sea. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ convened a meeting with the Sahabah ؓ to consult with them about the issue. "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" they said, "There was no reluctance when it came to the conquest of Cyprus, which served to greatly lift the morale of the Muslims. We feel that Mu'aawiya ؓ be allowed to sail."

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then wrote back to Hadhrat Mu'aawiya ؓ saying, "Permission has been granted for your request. **Fear Allaah and never lose your far-sightedness.** If you have any fears before setting sail, then do not sail because the dangers of the sea are grave."¹

Story 74

Fixing an Allowance for people with Families

Hadhrat Abu Is'haaq ؓ that his grandfather once passed by Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, who asked him how many children he had. When he informed Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ how many children he had, the Ameerul Mu'mineen said, "**We shall then fix a hundred Dirhams per head for your family and yourself.**"²

¹ Kitaabul Futuh (Vol.2 Pg.127), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.107).

² Futuhul Buldaan (Pg.445), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.137).

Story 75

Relieving his Son-in-Law of his Post because of Misappropriation

Harth bin Hakam was Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ's cousin and son-in-law. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ appointed him to the post of monitoring prices, mark-ups, scales, coins and other market-related issues so that there does not arise any disputes between buyers and sellers. However, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ learned that Harth was not fulfilling the duty honestly and was extracting undue benefit from his position by reserving certain commodities for himself. **Despite their family ties, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ made no secret of his displeasure and immediately dispelled Harth from his post.**¹

Story 76

Caution in Disciplinary Matters

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ's slave Mihjan reports that a woman in tattered clothing once came to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, confessing to have committed adultery. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ instructed Mihjan to escort her out, which he duly did. However, the lady soon returned to repeat the confession. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ again asked Mihjan to see her out. She, however, returned for a third time.

This time, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ addressed Mihjan saying, "**This woman is impoverished and such a condition often makes them commit evil.** Take her away, feed her a good meal, give her good clothing to wear, load a donkey with flour, dates and raisins and attach her to a caravan that may be leaving."

¹ Taareekhul Khamees (Vol.2 Pg.268), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.135).

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This time, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ addressed Mihjan saying, "**This woman is impoverished and such a condition often makes them commit evil.** Take her away, feed her a good meal, give her good clothing to wear, load a donkey with flour, dates and raisins and attach her to a caravan that may be leaving."

¹ Taareekhul Khamees (Vol.2 Pg.268), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.135).

Mihjan did as he was instructed and when he was seeing her off with the caravan, he asked her whether she still confessed to the sin. She replied, "Not at all. I came with the confession before the Ameerul Mu'mineen so that he could see my impoverished state."¹

Story 77

Warning the Masses Against Treating Laws Lightly

When it was discovered that there was a person practising magic, someone by the name of Jundub decided to beat the magician up. Since the region was under the governorship of Hadhrat Waleed bin Uqba, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ wrote to him saying, "Make Jundub take an oath that he did not know that he had the right to punish the magician. If he takes the oath, give him some punishment and then set him free. **Then make it clear to the people that they should never act upon mere suspicion and that they should never take the law into their own hands.**"²

Story 78

Remaining Steadfast upon the Pledge made to Rasulullaah ﷺ

Hadhrat Aa'isha ؓ reports, "Rasulullaah ﷺ once said, 'Call one of my companions.' I asked, 'Abu Bakr?' 'No,' replied Rasulullaah ﷺ. 'Then Umar?' I asked. 'No,' Rasulullaah ﷺ again replied. 'Then your cousin Ali?' I said. When Rasulullaah ﷺ again replied in the negative, I said, 'Then

¹ Kanzul Ummaal (Vol.15 Pg.27), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.144).

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.4 Pg.275), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.149).

Uthmaan?" 'Yes,' Rasulullaah ﷺ replied. When Uthmaan ؓ arrived, Rasulullaah ﷺ took him aside and whispered something to him, which made Uthmaan ؓ' s face grow pale. The day Uthmaan ؓ was besieged in his house (by some Muslim rebels), we asked, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Should we not fight them?' He replied, 'No. Rasulullaah ﷺ undertook a pledge from me and I shall remain steadfast on it.'"¹

Story 79

It is Permissible to take the Life of a Muslim only for three Reasons

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ narrates that when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was besieged in his house; he looked out to the people (the rebels) and asked them, "For what reason do you want to kill me? I have heard Rasulullaah ﷺ say, 'A person's blood is forbidden unless for one of three reasons; the married man who commits adultery shall be stoned to death, the one who **intentionally murders** shall be executed and the one who renounces Islaam shall also be executed.' By Allaah! I have never committed **adultery**, neither during the Period of Ignorance nor as a Muslim. I have also never murdered anyone because of which I should be executed and I have also never **renounced Islaam**. I testify that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad ﷺ is the servant and messenger of Allaah."²

¹ Ahmad, as quoted in Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah (Vol.7 Pg.181). Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.46) has also reported the narration but in greater detail. This narration appears in Hayaatus Sahabah ؓ.

² Ahmad and Nasa'ee, as quoted in Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah (Vol.7 Pg.179). This narration appears in Hayaatus Sahabah ؓ.

Story 80

Addressing the Rebels

Hadhrat Abu Layla Kindi reports that he was present when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was besieged in his house and peeped through a vent in the wall and said, "O people! Do not kill me and (if I have sinned) rather get me to repent. I swear by Allaah that if you kill me, you (Muslims) **shall never again be able perform salaah together nor fight the enemy in as a unified force.** You will then be at loggerheads until you become like this." He then interlaced his fingers. He then recited a verse of the Qur'aan (quoting the words of Hadhrat Shu'ayb ؓ):

وَيَا قَوْمِ لَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شِقَاقِي أَنْ يُصِيبَكُمْ مِثْلُ مَا أَصَابَ قَوْمَ نُوحٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ هُودٍ أَوْ قَوْمَ
صَالِحٍ وَمَا قَوْمُ لُوطٍ مِّنْكُمْ بِبَعِيدٍ

"O my people! Let not your opposition for me cause the same punishment to afflict you as afflicted the nation of Nooh ؑ or the nation of Hood ؑ or the nation of Saalih ؑ. And the nation of Loot ؑ are not far off from you (in memory and location)."

{Surah Hood, verse 89}

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then sent for Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Salaam ؓ to ask him what his opinion was. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Salaam ؓ replied, "Restraint! Restraint, (restrain your hand from the rebels) because it lends more weight to your argument (on the Day of Qiyaamah)."¹

¹ Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.49). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 81

Matchless Resolve

Hadhrat Mughiera bin Shu'ba ؓ narrates that when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was under siege, he approached him and said, "You are the leader of the masses and are in the predicament you can see. I therefore have three proposals for you. You may choose any of them you like. You may go out and fight them for you have many supporters with great strength and you are on the truth while they are upon falsehood. Alternatively, you may open up a door from your house apart from the one where they are stationed, from where you can mount your animal and go to Makkah. They shall never regard your blood as lawful (for them to spill) as long as you are there. Another option is that **you go to Shaam where the people of Shaam are there for you as well as Mu'aawiya ؓ.**"

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "I cannot go out and fight them because I never want to be the first of the Ummah of Rasulullaah ؐ to shed (the) blood (of Muslims). Although they will never regard my blood to be lawful if I go to Makkah, I have heard Rasulullaah ؐ say, 'A man from the Quraysh will go to Makkah and be a cause of spreading irreligiousness. He shall suffer the punishment of half the universe.' I never want that man to be me. I cannot also go to Shaam although the people of Shaam and Mu'awiyah are there because I shall never leave the place of Hijrah and the proximity of Rasulullaah ؐ."¹

¹ Ahmad, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.211). Haythami (Vol.7 Pg.230) has commented on the chain of narrators. This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 82

Killing one Person is As Bad as Killing all of Mankind

Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ reports that he entered Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house when he was under siege and said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! It has now become permissible for you to fight these rebels." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked, "O Abu Hurayrah! Would you like to kill all of mankind including myself?" "Certainly not," replied Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ then said, **"By Allaah! If you kill a single person it is tantamount to killing all of mankind."** Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ then returned without fighting.¹

Story 83

The Will never to Spill any Blood to Save his Own

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ entered Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house and said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! **In your house you have such a group of people who will attract the help of Allaah (when fighting the rebels) even though they may be few in number.** Please issue the command so that we may fight." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, "I am pleading to every man in the name of Allaah that he should not have his blood spilt for me and should not spill the blood of another for me." Another narration states that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Zubayr ؓ said to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, "Fight them because Allaah has made it permissible for you to fight them." Hadhrat Uthmaan

¹ Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.48) as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.25). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ

replied, "Never! I swear by Allaah that I shall never fight them."¹

Story 84

Handing the Rebels over to Allaah

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Saa'idah ؓ reports that Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Al Aas ؓ came to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! For how long will you restrain our hands? These people have eaten at us. While some of them have fired arrows at us, others have thrown stones at us and some have even drawn their swords. Please give us the command (to fight)." Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, **"I have no intention of fighting them even though I know that I will be safe from them if I do so.** I prefer to rather hand them over to Allaah together with those who instigated them against me because we will all be gathered together before our Rabb. As for fighting them, I swear by Allaah that I shall never issue the command."²

Story 85

An Oath Never to Spill Blood

Hadhrat Shaddaad bin Aws ؓ narrates that then when the siege of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house became too difficult; he peeped out to see the people and said, "O servants of Allaah!" Hadhrat Shaddaad ؓ says that he then saw Hadhrat Ali bin Abi Taalib ؓ outside his house wearing the turban of Rasulullaah ﷺ and his sword around his neck. In front of him was Hadhrat Hasan ؓ, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar ؓ and a group of the Muhaajireen and Ansaar. They launched an

¹ Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.49). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ

² Ibn Sa'd (Vol.5 Pg.23). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ

assault on the rebels (surrounding the house) and dispersed them all. They then entered the house where Hadhrat Ali ؓ said to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, "As Salaamu Alayka, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Verily Rasulullaah ﷺ did not attain this (dominance) until he struck those who turned away with those who came forward. By Allaah! I believe that these people want nothing but to kill you, so issue the command for us to fight them. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, "In the name of Allaah do I implore a person who acknowledges the right he owes to Allaah and the right he owes to me that he should not spill even a cupping-glass of blood because of me and that he should not even spill his own blood because of me."

When Hadhrat Ali ؓ repeated his request, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ gave the same reply. Hadhrat Ali ؓ then left the house saying, "O Allaah! You know well that we have tried our level best." He then entered the Masjid, where it was time to perform salaah. "O Abul Hasan!" the people said to him, "Go forward and lead the salaah." Hadhrat Ali ؓ replied, "I shall not lead you in salaah when your Imaam is under siege. I shall rather perform salaah by myself." He then performed the salaah by himself and then went to his house. His son met him and said, "Dear father! I swear by Allaah that the rebels have barged into the house." Hadhrat Ali ؓ sighed, "Innaa Lillaahi wa Innaa Ilayhi Raaji'oon! By Allaah! They will certainly martyr him." Some people asked, "O Abul Hasan! Where will Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ be (when they martyr him)?" He replied, "In Jannah. I swear by Allaah that he will enjoy an extremely close position to Allaah." Then they asked, "And where will they (the murderers) be, O Abu Hasan?" Hadhrat Ali ؓ thrice repeated, "By Allaah! They will be in Hell."¹

¹ Abu Ahmad, as quoted in *Riyaadun Nudhra fi Munaaqibil Ashara* (Vol.2 Pg.128). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 86

Advice to Remain Affiliated with the Masses

Hadhrat Abu Salama bin Abdur Rahmaan reports that Hadhrat Abu Qataadah ؓ and another person went to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ while his house was under siege. They requested permission to proceed for Hajj and he granted them permission. They then asked, "With whom should we affiliate if these rebels gain the upper hand?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "Stick with the majority." They then asked, "But what if these rebels who gain the upper hand form the majority?" "Who then should we affiliate with?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ repeated, "Stick with the majority wherever they may be."¹

Story 87

An Unprecedented Display of Patience

The narrator of the above narration continues, "We were leaving when we met Hasan bin Ali ؓ at the door as he was going to Uthmaan ؓ. We returned with him to hear what he had to say. He greeted Uthmaan ؓ and then said, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Command us to do as you wish.' Uthmaan ؓ replied, 'Dear nephew! Go and sit in your home until Allaah brings His decision to pass.' When he left, we left with him but then met Ibn Umar ؓ at the door as he was going to Uthmaan ؓ. We returned with him to hear what he had to say. He greeted Uthmaan ؓ and then said, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I had been in the company of Rasulullaah ﷺ and I listened and

¹ Abu Ahmad, as quoted in *Riyaadun Nudhra fi Munaaqibil Ashara* Vol.2 Pg.128). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

obeyed. Thereafter, I had been in the company of Abu Bakr ؓ and I listened and obeyed. After that, I had been in the company of Umar ؓ and I also listened and obeyed, dutifully acknowledging his rights as my father and as the Khalifah. I am now present to obey you, O Ameerul Mu'mineen. Command us to do as you wish.' Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ twice repeated, 'May Allaah reward with the best rewards, O family of Umar ؓ.' He then added, 'However, I do need blood to be spilt.'"¹

Story 88

Placing Others Before Himself

Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah ؓ says, "I was under siege with Uthmaan ؓ in his house when one of our men was struck by an arrow. I said, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Now that one of our men has been killed, it is alright for us to fight back.' He replied, 'O Abu Hurayrah! I strictly command you to throw down your sword. It is my life that is wanted and I am prepared to save the Mu'mineen by giving my own life.' I then threw away my sword and do not know where it is to this day.""²

Story 89

Meeting Rasulullaah ؐ in a Dream

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Salaam ؓ narrates, "I went to Uthmaan ؓ when he was imprisoned in his house. 'A warm welcome to my brother,' he said. He then said, 'Last night I saw Rasulullaah ؐ by this window. 'O Uthmaan!' he said,

¹ Abu Ahmad, as quoted in *Riyaadun Nudhra fi Munaaqibil Ashara* (Vol.2 Pg.128). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Abu Umar, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummal* (Vol.9 Pg.129). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Have they surrounded you?' When I replied in the affirmative, Rasulullaah ؐ further asked, 'And have they made you thirsty?' When I confirmed this, Rasulullaah ؐ held out a bucket of water from which I drank to my fill. In fact, I actually felt the coolness of the water on my chest and between my shoulders. Rasulullaah ؐ then said, 'If you wish, you may be assisted against them or alternatively, you may terminate your fast with us.' I chose to rather terminate my fast with them.' Uthmaan ؓ was then martyred that very day.""¹

Story 90

Concern not to Stir Trouble with his Words

Hadhrat Katheer bin Silt narrates, "On the day Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was martyred, he happened to fall asleep (during the day). He then woke up and said, 'I would inform you of something had it not been for people saying that Uthmaan wishes to stir trouble.' 'May Allaah mend your affairs,' we said, 'Please do inform us because we will not say what other people say.' He then related, 'I saw Rasulullaah ؐ in the sleep I just had and he said to me, 'You will be with us this Friday.'"² Another narration adds that that very day was Friday.³

¹ Ibn Abi Dunya, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.182). This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Haakim (Vol.3 Pg.99), reporting from reliable sources as confirmed by Dhahabi. This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

³ Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.75). Abu Ya'la has reported a similar narration, but Haythami (Vol.7 Pg.232) has commented on the chain of narrators. This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

Story 91

Reciting the Qur'aan even when Under Siege

Hadhrat Muslim Abu Sa'eed who was a freed slave of Hadhrat Uthmaan bin Affaan ؓ, says, "Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ set twenty slaves free and then asked for a pair of trousers, which he wore, even though he never wore trousers at any time before Islaam or after becoming a Muslim. He then said, 'Last night I saw Rasulullaah ﷺ, Abu Bakr ؓ and Umar ؓ. They said to me, 'Be patient because you will terminate your fast with us tomorrow evening.' He then asked for his Qur'aan and opened it before him (to recite). He was later martyred with the Qur'aan still in front of him."¹

Story 92

Love and Respect for the City of Rasulullaah ﷺ

When matters deteriorated in Madinah, Hadhrat Mu'aawiya ؓ advised Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to either to move to Shaam or to allow him to mobilise a regiment of his army to defend the Khalifah in Madinah. Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, however, turned down both offers saying, "I shall never leave the company of Rasulullaah ﷺ for any price and will also not allow such a large army into Madinah that will cause the people of Madinah to suffer a shortage of food."²

¹ Abdullaah and Abu Ya'la, reporting from reliable sources as confirmed by Haythami (Vol.7 Pg.232). *Majma'uz Zawaa'id* and *Al Bidaayah wan Nihayah* state several other narrations of the same. This narration appears in *Hayaatus Sahabah* ؓ.

² Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.284).

Story 93

Appointing a Representative to Perform Hajj

Ever since he acceded to the post of Khilaafah, it was the practice of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to proceed for Hajj every year and to summon the governors of all the territories there. He would then hear the conditions of the people in all the Muslim lands and be able to ascertain their difficulties.

However, when he was under siege in Madinah, he instructed Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ to proceed on his behalf. "I think," Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ remarked, "That waging Jihaad against these rebels is better than performing Hajj." Notwithstanding this, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ insisted that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ do as he was instructed and finally took an oath in Allaah's name that he complies. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ was then forced to do as bidden.¹

Story 94

Serving the Servants

Hadhrat Muhammad bin Hilaal reports from his grandmother that she served Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ during the days that he was under siege in Madinah. When she failed to arrive one day, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ enquired after her. He was informed that she had given birth to her son (Hilaal). He then sent for her fifty Dirhams and a sheet of cloth saying, "This shall be the child's allowance, which he shall receive every monthly.

¹ Kaamil of Ibn Atheer (Vol.3 Pg.174), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.251)

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¹ Kaamil of Ibn Atheer (Vol.3 Pg.174), as quoted in *Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn* ؓ (Pg.251)

The allowance shall be doubled as soon as the child turns a year.”¹

Story 95

The Parting Advices of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ

Hadhrat Alaa bin Fadhl narrated from his mother that after Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was martyred, the people searched for his wealth and found a locked box. When they opened the box, they found in it a paper on which the following was written:

"This is the parting advice of Uthmaan. I begin with the name of Allaah the Most Kind the Most Merciful. Uthmaan bin Affaan testifies that there is none worthy of worship but the One Allaah Who has no partner and that Muhaminad e was Allaah's servant and messenger. He also testifies that Jannah is real, Jahannam is real and that Allaah shall resurrect those in the graves on a day about which there is no doubt. Indeed, Allaah never breaks a promise. Upon this did he live, upon this did he die and with this will he be resurrected, Inshaa Allaah."

A narration of Nizaamul Mulk states that the following couplets were written on the reverse side of this paper (which mean):

"Independence makes one so content that his status soars Even though it suppresses him to the extent that poverty threatens Though you should be patient when it strikes, remember that difficulty Never comes without ease following on its heels Whoever does not compare times cannot understand grief The promises of time are to be found in the changing of the days"

¹ Al Bidayah wan Nihaayah (Vol.7 Pg.214), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.156).

Story 96

Intuition

The rebels once sent a man from the Banu Layth into Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house. "Which tribe do you belong to?" Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ asked. When the man replied that he was from the Bau Layth tribe, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ remarked, "Then you cannot be the one to murder me." "Why is that?" the man enquired. "Were you not amongst the group whom Rasulullaah ؐ prayed for by saying that you will be safeguarded during times like this?" When the man admitted that he was, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said, "You will then not be amongst the destroyed ones." The man then left and deserted the rebels.

The rebels then sent a man from amongst the Quraysh. When the man entered, he said, "O Uthmaan! I shall be the one to slay you." "Not at all," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ responded. "Why is that?" the man enquired. "Because Rasulullaah ؐ prayed for your forgiveness one day," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ replied, "You will therefore never have blood on your hands." The man then left in repentance and also deserted the rebels.²

Story 97

The Sanctity of the Haram and Harming Fellow Muslims

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas ؓ reports that Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ once said to him, "Although I have appointed Khaalid bin Aas bin Hishaam as the governor of Makkah, I

¹ Fadhaa'ili Raazi. The narration appears in Hayaatus Sahabah ؓ.

² Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.399).

fear that the people may rebel against him and start a war within the Haram. This will affect the peace of the Haram and is especially serious since it is the time of Hajj and people will arrive in Makkah from all over the world. I have therefore decided to leave all the affairs of the Haraam upon you¹

Story 98

Appointing People according to their Capabilities

Hadhrat Abu Hudhayfah ؓ was of high lineage amongst the Quraysh and also amongst the earliest Muslims. His son Muhammad was still a young boy when he lost his father and was adopted by Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. However, when Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ became the Khalifah, Muhammad was not appointed to any post, much to his disappointment. This was because he was not practising upon the Deen properly. When he once asked Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ to appoint him to a post, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ refused saying, "I would have appointed you to some post of governorship if I knew that you were capable. However, you are not fit for such a post." Muhammad then walked away in anger.²

Story 99

The Height of Justice

Delegations from Kufa, Basrah and Egypt all left together to complain to Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and joined up outside Madinah. When he heard about their arrival, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ sent two men to ask them why they had come. The two men returned with the message that they had come to highlight Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s iniquities and force him to step

¹ Tareekh Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.414).

down as the Khalifah. They also added that they intended to assassinate him if he refused.

Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ laughed at this and then summoned them all together with the Sahabah ؓ to state their case. He then consulted with the Sahabah ؓ about what steps to take concerning them. When some of them suggested that they all be executed, Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ remarked, "Not until any of them show signs of Kufr or deserve perpetrating a crime that warrants execution. It would be unjust to punishment any of them without such a reason."¹

Story 100

The Effects of a Curse

Hadhrat Abu Qilaaba reports, "I once heard a man in the marketplace of Shaam screaming, 'Fire! Fire!' When I saw him, I noticed that both his hands were severed and both his feet as well. He was also blind and dragging himself along with his face on the ground. All the while, he was shouting, 'Fire! Fire!' When I asked about his condition, he informed, 'I was amongst those who barged into the house of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ. His wife started to scream when we entered and I promptly slapped her. 'What is the matter with you?' Uthmaan ؓ asked, 'You are hitting a woman without any cause! May Allaah cut off your hands and feet, make you blind and cast you into the fire.' I became terrified and ran away. This is now my condition and it is only the fire that remains."²

¹ Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ Khalifah Madhloom (Pg.139).

² Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ Khalifah Madhloom (Pg.213).

The Ultimate Testimony

The house of Amr bin Hazam was adjacent to the house of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ and one of its windows opened into Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house. While some skirmishes were taking place between the two groups, Muhammad bin Abu Bakr and some other rebels managed to leap through this window and enter Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s house. It was after Asr and Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ was fasting at the time. His wife Naa' ilah bint Qaraafasah was sitting with him as he recited the Qur'aan.

Muhammad bin Abu Bakr leapt in front of Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ, grabbed his beard and started swearing at the Ameerul Mu'mineen. "Leave my beard alone, dear nephew," Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ said to him, "If your father was alive today, he would never have approved of what you are doing." Muhammad bin Abu Bakr sneered, "I am still about to do something much worse!" He then drove his dagger into Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ' s forehead, causing blood to gush like a fountain through the wound. His beard drenched in blood, the Ameerul Mu'mineen exclaimed, "*Bismillaahi Tawakkaltu al Allaah*" ('In the name of Allaah in Whom I trust'). He then fell on his left side. He was reciting Surah Baqara at the time and the Qur'aan was open in front of him. The blood trickling down his beard dripped on the Qur'aan and stopped on the words: "**Allaah shall be enough for you against them** (*Allaah is Sufficient as your Helper against them*). **He is All Hearing, All Knowing**". The Qur'aan was then closed.

It was then that Kinaanah bin Bishr bin Itaab struck Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ so hard with an iron rod that he turned and lay on

his face. Sowdaan bin Hamraan then attacked Hadhrat Uthmaan ؓ with his sword and Amr bin Ahmaq sat upon his chest and continuously stabbed at him with a spear. The soul of the third Khalifah then left peacefully for the next realm. *Innaa Lillaahi wa Innaa Ilayhi Raaji'oon.*¹

Translation Edited by
Mufti Afzal Hoosen Elias
(May Allaah be with him)
1427 / 2007.

¹ Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.52), as quoted in Hadhrat Uthmaan Dhun Noorayn ؓ (Pg.256).

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مائة قصة حول عثمان رضي الله عنه

باللغة الإنجليزية

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book highlights with valid, reliable and authentic references, the lineage, family, birth, occupation, noble character, outstanding, personality, piety, righteousness, generously, hospitality, dressing, physical appearance, Islaam, Imaan, difficulties endured, shyness, fear of Allaah Ta'ala, kindness, justice, eradicating evil qualities, marriages, justice, honouring family of Nabi صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, teaching methods, extension of Masjid Nabawi صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, simplicity and standardising the Quraan e Kareem.

Many doubts which the ignorant one and the wilful objectors against the nobility of Hadhrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه have been demolished and eradicated by this wonderful work.

May Allaah Jalla Majdahu grant us the ability to honour and defend the position, status and dignity of Hahdrat Uthmaan رضي الله عنه.

A. H. Elias (Mufti)

(May Allaah be with him)